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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. Tonkin or Northern Vietnam (10,000 troops).
  - (a) Nghia dung Doan (30% of the troops in Tonkin) These are recruited from among the population in French-held zones. They are armed by the French and supported by the population.
  - (b) The Viet Binh (60% of the number in Tonkin). These served in the French expeditionary forces. Officers are French.
  - (c) The Mountaineers (10% of the total troops in Tonkin) Recruited among the Tho Man, Mao and the population of the Highlands of Tonkin. Officers are French. They are armed and paid by the French.
5. Cambodia (15% of 50,000) This native Army is composed of former tirailleurs in the Cochinchina-Cambodia Division before the War. They are armed and paid by the French Union. Cadres are French and a few favored Cambodians.
6. Laos (10% of 50,000) The native army in Laos consists of former chasseurs in the Annam-Laos Brigade. They are armed by the French and paid by the French. Most of the officers are French and some are Cambodians who have been recruited and trained by the French.\*\*
7. The Laotians are sent to fight the Viet Minh in Annam. The French used to tell them that if they did not fight, Laos would become a Vietnamese colony.
8. The Cambodians are used to fight the Viet Minh in Cochinchina. To persuade them to fight, the French say that the whole of Cochinchina was part of Cambodia and that good Cambodians must reconquer it.\*\*\*
9. Bao Dai's troops fight the Viet Minh in some places. In Cochinchina, for instance, the Cao-Dai, Hoa Hao and Binh Xuyen create much more trouble for the Viet Minh than the French.
10. At present, the training of combatants and cadres in the Bao-Dai Army is as follows: 3 months for the privates, from 3 to 5 months for non-coms, and 6 to 8 months for officers. The latter are recruited from among those who have at least their diplomes d'etudes primaires superieures.\*\*\*
11. According to reports from the French military authorities in Indochina to the French Cabinet, there are not enough arms and ammunition to supply the local troops in Indochina.
12. The Cao-Dai, Hoa Hao and Binh-Xuyen are more "bandits" than soldiers. They avail themselves of the troubled situations to plunder and rape the population. Their morale is very low, as even the French High Command in Indochina admit. Most fight to earn a living and some are ready to desert to the Viet Minh, once their families are safe from French reprisal.

\* Comment. In the French Army the non-coms and the officers are called cadres.

\*\* Comment. The French have picked these officers especially for their brutality.

\*\*\* Comment. Even the pro-French and the Bao-Dai do not like the idea of having the "stupid" Laotians and Cambodians come and pillage in Vietnam. Most people think the French will have to change these tactics of using Cambodians to fight Vietnamese and vice versa .

\*\*\*\* Comment: Before the war a Vietnamese who wanted to become an officer in the French Army must have had the baccalaureat metropolitain and receive at least one year training.

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